Application No. 10/596,245

Amendment dated February 13, 2008

Reply to Non-Final Office Action of December 12, 2007

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 are in the application.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 9 are amended. No new matter is added.

Replacement sheets of the Figs. are enclosed. No new matter is added.

I. <u>Drawings Objection Under 37 CFR §1.83(a)</u>

The objection to the drawings by the Examiner is noted. Replacement drawing sheets are

enclosed. In the Replacement sheets, in Figures 1, 5, and 6 a lead line is inserted for reference

character "0". In Figure 2 lines A1 and A2 are added and reference character 51 together with its

lead line is cancelled. In Figure 5 the reference number 4 is changed to 4A. In Figure 6 the

reference number 4 is changed to 4B.

II. Claim objections

The objection to claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 is noted. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 7 are amended to avoid

the objections raised by the Examiner.

III. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite

is noted. Claims 1 - 9 are amended and now avoid the various issues raised by the Examiner.

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IV. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-3, and 5-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by

Jaworski, is traversed.

In the invention here disclosed, a bearing seat of a ball joint located in a socket with an

opening has a spherical sliding surface that rotatably holds a substantially globular ball portion of

a ball stud arranged in the socket and has a latitudinal direction and a longitudinal direction, and

an opening which communicates with the opening. The bearing seat of the ball joint houses

concave portions which form lines along the latitude direction and respective opening areas of

the mutually adjacent lines are different from each other. (See paragraph [0011], underscoring

added for emphasis.)

Referring to Fig. 2 and Col, 4, lines 53-61 of Jaworski:

"... the bearing socket 18 has a generally spherical inner contour 52

having lubricant reservoirs that are exemplary shown as dimples at 54

formed thereon. The dimples or other cavity configurations - such as a

waffle pattern or annular grooves - provide a plurality of lubricant

reservoirs to facilitate continuous supply of lubricant onto the sliding

surfaces between the ball stud journal 24 and the bearing socket 18

facilitating prolonged product performance."

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Clearly, Jaworski neither discloses nor suggests the structure of concave portions having open areas which are different, as is disclosed in the application. (underscoring added for emphasis)

Amended claim 1 avoids Jaworski by reciting the structure of:

"A bearing seat for a ball joint...having a plurality of housing concave portions that are respectively opened along first and second adjacent latitudinal direction positions on the sliding surface in a manner opposed to an outer circumferential surface of the ball portion for housing a lubricant" ... in combination with... "concave portions of the first and second adjacent latitudinal direction positions have opened areas which are different from each other". (underscoring added for emphasis)

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, for the reasons noted above, also avoid Jaworski.

Claim 5 avoids Jaworski by reciting the structure of concave portions having opened areas of <u>different sizes</u>. Specifically, claim 5 recites the structure of:

"...concave portions ... respectively provided ... to form first and second lines along the longitudinal direction at one side of an equator and form tiers along the latitudinal direction wherein the first line is closer to the equator and

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the opened areas in the second line are equal to each other

and less than the opened areas of the first line, and the

opened areas are adapted to house a lubricant"

(underscoring added for emphasis)

Claim 8 depends from claim 5 and, therefore, for the reason noted above, also avoids

Jaworski. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

V. Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jaworski et

al., U.S. Patent No. 5,795,092, in view of Ahn, KR-2001107452 is traversed.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 which, as noted above, avoids Jaworski and, therefore,

claim 4 also avoids Jaworski. Further, Ahn does not cure the deficiencies of Jaworski, and thus

neither Jaworski, Ahn, nor the combination of the two renders the claim obvious. Applicants

respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

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## **CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending independent Claims 1-9 in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

Dated: February 13, 2008 Respectfully submitted,

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